UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

IPF: (1992-1996) $62 134 000

Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Programme

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DEPT

COMPONENTS:
(MLW/92/006) Policy-Agriculture and the Environment
(MLW/92/007) Agricultural Research
(MLW/92/008) Agricultural Extension and Land Utilization
(MLW/92/009) Farm inputs, Credit and Marketing
(MLW/92/010) Natural Resources Management
(MLW/92/011) Capture Fisheries

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	5 August 1992
Expected duration:	Four and a half years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Food and Agricultural
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$10 416 800 Source of funds: IPF
Third-party cost sharing:	$10 300 000
Total UNDP budget:	$20 716 800

Project background

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy in Malawi. It contributes 37 percent of the GDP of Malawi and provides 90 percent of foreign exchange earnings. More than 70 percent of the cultivated area is farmed by 1.2 million small-scale families with an average holding of 1.1 hectares. Small-scale farmers provide 80-85 percent of total agricultural production and are the source of the country's staple foods. About one-third of small holdings are female headed. Approximately 55 percent of smallholder farm families have less than one hectare; and 75 percent of these are headed by women.

Smallholder farmers operate under severe land, labour and financial constraints, with poor access to inputs, credits and markets. Crop yields are therefore extremely low with resulting widespread malnutrition and food insecurity at the household level. Pressure for land in Malawi has also increased considerably in recent years; and projections for the next ten years present an alarming picture of further fragmentation and potentially serious environmental degradation.

A significant component of the Government of Malawi's (GOM) agricultural policy, as described in the Statement of Development Policies in Malawi 1987-1996 (DEVPOL) and other supplementary statements, is the Food Security and Nutrition Policy which pays special

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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attention to resource poor and women farmers, the two major vulnerable and food insecure segments of the farming community. The GOM/UNDP Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Programme is essential derived from one of the specific elements of this policy which "increased agricultural productivity with special emphasis on holdings with less than one hectare".

Description of project

The overall objective of the Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Programme is to increase household food security and agricultural productivity focusing on poverty alleviation in the rural areas and targeting particularly the resource poor farmers with less than one hectare of land. The Programme will also address issues pertaining to natural resources and environment directly affecting smallholder productivity.

The immediate objectives of the Programme are to: (a) improve the policy environment; (b) increase the application of on-farm research; (c) expand the coverage of extension services; (d) increase the access to farm inputs and labour-saving technology; (e) improve the environmental monitoring and management; and (f) effect a more sustainable utilization of forestry and fisheries resources. The Programme will comprise of six components: (1) Policy-Agriculture and Environment; (2) Agricultural Research; (3) Agricultural Extension and Land Utilization; (4) Farm Inputs, Credit and Marketing; (5) Natural Resources Management; and (6) Capture Fisheries. Each of the components adheres to the Government's subsector strategy and/or plan if such exist and also relate and complement the other donor programmes. The Programme will target the poorest segments of the population and the local authorities that service them. In order to ensure an intensive and integrated implementation of the Programme, six local impact areas were selected, the basis of their selection being their low Human Development Index (DI), using available poverty indicators. The integration of seven cross-programme strategies into the Programme components will include: women in development, population, environment, human immune deficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, appropriate technology, employment and popular participation.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 24 international experts (551 work-months) including one programme adviser, three component advisors, nine subject matter specialists, and UNVs as well as 67 work-months of short-term consultancies; administrative support staff for a limited time period to complement the government administrative staff; national professionals (60 work-months) as well as national consultants (28 work-months) training materials and NGO support; fellowships, study tours and in-service training; and vehicles and office equipment .

Financial data

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Personnel	5 803 900
Subcontract	692 000
Training	1 834 000
Equipment	1 301 400
Miscellaneous	785 500
Total	10 416 800

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